The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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DEPORTATION PROBERS NAMED BY PRESIDENT

Washington, Sept. 29.—Following a recent protest by President Gompers against the deportation of workers in several western localities, President Wilson has appointed the following personal representatives to investigate this question and the labor situation in the mountain region and on the Pacific coast:

William B. Wilson, secretary of labor; E. P. Marsh, president Washington state federation of labor; John H. Walker, president Illinois state federation of labor; J. L. Spangler, retired coal operator, Pennsylvania; Verner Z. Reed, metal operator and rancher, Colorado.

In a statement announcing these appointments, President Wilson said:

"It will be the duty of the commission to visit, in each instance, the governor of the state, advising him that they are there as the personal representatives of the president with a view to lending sympathetic counsel and aid to the state government in the development of a better understanding between laborers and employers, and also themselves to deal with employers and employes in a conciliatory spirit, seek to compose differences and allay misunderstanding, and in any way that may be open to them to show the active interest of the national government in furthering arrangements just to both sides.

"Wherever it is deemed advisable conferences of employers and employes should be called with the purpose of working out a mutual understanding between them which will insure the continued operation of the industry on conditions acceptable to both sides.

"The commission should also endeavor to learn the real causes for any discontent which may exist on either side, not by the formal process of public hearings but by getting into touch with workmen and employers by the more informal process of personal conversation.

"I would be pleased to have the commission report to me from time to time such information as may require immediate attention."

TRUST RAISES WAGES.

Pittsburg, Pa., Sept. 29.—The United States steel corporation has increased wages 10 per cent, following the eight-hour strike of steel workers at the big Jones & Laughlin plants in this city.

The trust has "its ear to the ground." Last year it checked a spread of the Youngstown, Ohio, disorders among thousands of low-wage, unorganized employes in steel and iron mills by quickly announcing wage increases.

Washington, Sept. 29.—American steel producing interests are making an average profit of 100 per cent, Joseph Davies, federal trade commissioner, told the senate interstate commerce committee in testifying on the Pomerene bill to fix steel prices. Mr. Davies declared that, despite large advances in the cost of basic materials, such as coke, coal, iron ore and pig iron, the cost of production was "nowhere commensurate with the increased market price of steel."

"Steel now costs $34 a ton to produce," he said, "and it is selling for approximately $100. The cost of production before the war was $22."

PERSISTENCE WINS.

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 29.—"Even as the continued dripping of water will wear away the granite," says the Tacoma Daily News, "so is the demand for proper working conditions making its impress on the basic principle of business.

"Slowly but surely the asinine stubborness of 'I won't be dictated to' is being overcome.

"It has been a hard, long fight, but much progress has been made in the last year. More will be made in the year to come. Justice ever has prevailed in the end. Blind refusal to see it sometimes produces delay, but ultimately it is overcome. Wilful stubborness is destructive and leads inevitably to failure."

OXMAN OFFERED $250.

San Francisco, Sept. 29.—F. E. Rigall, of Grayville, Ill., chief witness against Frank C. Oxman, charged with attempted perjury in the Mooney case, testified that he was offered $250 by Oxman if he (Rigall) "went through" with false testimony against Mooney.

Rigall showed letters and telegrams from Oxman inviting him to testify against Mooney, despite the fact that he was not in San Francisco at the time of the preparedness parade last year, when the explosion happened.

"You would make a dandy witness," District Attorney Charles M. Fickert told him on one occasion, the witness stated.

THANKS BY SUFFRAGISTS.

Washington, Sept. 29.—The first convention of the National Federation of Federal Employes indorsed the trade union principles of equal suffrage and equal pay for equal work, and President McLarin has received this word from Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage association:

"Suffragists acknowledge with gratitude their great debt to organized labor, and in return they offer their own best efforts in support of its ideals."

WOMEN WORKERS INCREASE.

Olympia, Wash., Sept. 29.—Overalled women and girls is no longer a novelty in this state, reports the state department of labor. They are employed in the mills, furniture factories, box factories and other industries. Two shingle mills report that women between the ages of 25 and 40 make the best workers. The women are not yet accustomed to brickyards, as one firm reports that women in this industry are a failure. Jumpers and overalls are the common attire of these women.

WAGES MOST IMPORTANT.

Seattle, Sept. 29.—Arbitrators of the wages and working conditions of Seattle and Tacoma street car men have made this public declaration:

"The board has unanimously decided that there is a dead line on wages below which the company cannot go. There will be no taking of money away from the men below that point. We will give this human wage absolute priority over anything else."

442 KILLED IN TWO YEARS.

Butte, Mont., Sept. 29.—The state industrial accident board reports that during the last two years there were 442 fatal accidents in Montana, 13 were [illegible] disabled and 773 partially disabled. The grand total of all sorts of accidents on this industrial battlefield is [illegible].

RAILROAD EXPLOITS ITS WOMEN EMPLOYES

Pittsburg, Pa., Sept. 29.—Women labor advocates in this city are silent at the expose of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad's exploitation of its female employes who wipe engines under a speeding-up system and at a wage lower than paid men.

The women were employed the past summer following the great tumult about a scarcity of labor. They were promised 26 cents an hour, but their pay envelopes showed 22 cents an hour. When they objected, an efficiency expert was introduced to show them how to wipe engines with profit to themselves and without cost to the company. A rate of 50 cents for cleaning an entire engine was established, and for scrubbing of all of the engine below the running board they were paid 30 cents.

"For several days they worked like trojans," says the National Labor Journal, published in this city, "and one day actually succeeded in earning more than the company had agreed to pay. One day four women cleaned 17 engines, and on the following day five women were placed at work on 16 engines. Naturally their earnings dwindled."

The women were then told to paint the smoke boxes at the rate of 10 cents each, and refused. Then they organized, and one of them was discharged. The others quit.

POOR ALWAYS PATRIOTIC.

Jefferson City, Mo., Sept. 29.—In his report to the annual convention of the Missouri state federation of labor President Wood treated the patriotism of workers as a matter of course.

"The czars and kaisers and lords of industry and commerce the wide world over," he said, "have been full of praise and love for the millions of poor and oppressed, and praised their loyalty and patriotism so long as they were ready and willing to sacrifice their lives and their families on the altar of the god of war.

"Since time immemorial the poor and the oppressed of the nations have always been loyal and patriotic, because they loved their countries and their homes.

"Since the days of ancient Egypt and Babylonia, from the days of glory and power of ancient Greece and Rome to the days of the great Napoleon, and down to this present world war, it has always been the great mass of the working men and women who were loyal and patriotic, carrying the burdens of all the wars, making all the sacrifices, enduring all the sufferings.

"Our American labor movement is pledged to democracy; its very foundation spells democracy; its aims and aspirations have never been anything else but the realization of the greatest extension of democracy in every avenue of human activity. At all times have we been fighting the battles of the poor and oppressed."

WON'T RESIST DRAFT LAW.

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Sept. 29.—The annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada refused to withdraw former declarations against conscription, "but under our present form of government," said these unionists, "we do not deem it right, patriotic or in the interests of the labor movement in the Dominion of Canada to say or do anything that might prevent the government of Canada from obtaining the result they anticipate in the raising of reinforcements for the Canadian expeditionary force by the enforcement of the law. This congress is emphatically opposed to any development in the enforcement of legislation which will make for industrial conscription or the interference with the trade union movement in the taking care of the interests of the organized workers of this dominion."

COOPERS MAKE PROGRESS.

Baltimore, Sept. 29.—At the bi-ennial convention of the Coopers' International union President Hughes reported that of the 17 strikes during the past two years 10 were won and none were lost. Strike benefits to the amount of $5,622.50 were paid. "We have no hesitation in declaring," he said, "that in nearly all cases, and most notably the St. Louis strike, the benefits paid were the direct means of winning the strike and restoring peaceful relations."

President Hughes said that since the last convention the international has "splendidly advanced in organized activity by entering fields that have hitherto been inaccessible."

WILL VISIT RUSSIA.

New York, Sept. 29.—The executive committee of the American alliance for labor and democracy, of which President Gompers is the head, decided, at a meeting in this city, to send a mission of about 50 representatives of trade unions to Russia to clear up any misunderstandings the workers of the new republic may have as to America's attitude in the war and to offset contrary propaganda of German interests. It is planned to pay the expenses of the mission by making a public appeal for funds.

ENGINEERS GAIN.

Boston, Sept. 29. — Coal Hoisting Engineers' union No. 74, whose members are employed on the Boston and Maine railroad, have secured a two-year agreement which provides for a nine-hour day and wage increases, overtime at the rate of 85 cents an hour and $1.50 an hour for Sunday work. When called to work and reporting, in the event of a vessel not arriving or there being no work, they shall be paid for one-half a day at regular day or night rates.

CULINARY WORKERS STRIKE.

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 29.—In an attempt to check unionism several cooks and waiters were discharged by restaurant managers, who declared that "no unionists need apply." A strike followed but public opinion was so strong against the restaurants that they changed front, only to find that the union then demanded recognition and a six-day week.

KILLED IN MINE GAGE.

West Frankfort, Ill., Sept. 29.—Five miners were killed and six seriously injured at the Orient mine when a two-ton counter balance slipped from the cables and fell through the roof of the cage in which the miners were hoisted to the surface. The cage was 200 feet from the bottom when the accident occurred.

FORGET OLD CRY.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Sept. 29.—The Toronto Street Railway company has paid its usual quarterly dividend, despite claims made during the recent street car men's strike that any wage increase would bankrupt this company.

STEEL COSTS REDUCED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT

Washington, Sept. 29.—President Wilson has approved a new schedule of steel prices set by the war industries board. The prices call for steel bars at $58 and plates at $65 a ton for the government, its allies and private consumers. These rates are agreeable to the steel producing interests and provide for a saving of $25 a ton over recent prices on steel plates and $52 on bars.

Orders governing priority of steel contracts were issued to many firms and are expected to work profound changes in the industrial fabric. Manufacturers of articles classed as luxuries will be the first to feel its operation, and as the government's requirements grow, non-essential industries using iron and steel may be eliminated entirely.

The price fixing is carried back to the cost of production and prices are fixed on iron ore at $5.05 a ton and on coke at $6 a ton. Pig iron is quoted at $33. Existing contracts are not affected unless found to be at abnormal rates. Provision is made that there shall be no reduction in steel mill wages.

New York, Sept. 29. — From these figures comparison can be made between the prices per ton of steel products at the start of the war and recently, and with the prices just set by the government:

Pig iron—1914, $14; 1915, $15.85; 1916, $24; recent price, $58; government price, $33.

Coke—1914, $2.22; 1915, $2.42; 1916, $4.78; recent price, $16; government price, $6.

Steel bars—1914, $29; 1915, $23.20; 1916, $49.60; recent price, $110; government price, $58.

Plates—1914, $27.80; 1915, $22.80; 1916, $56.40; recent price, $160; government price, $65.

Shapes—1914, $23.20; 1915, $26; 1916, $50; recent price, $90; government price, $60.

GAINS BY SHOP MEN.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 29.—Committees representing federated shop men employed by the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad have secured an eight-hour day and satisfactory working rules, with one or two exceptions. The employes will vote on the proposed agreement.

Houston, Tex., Sept. 29.—Federated shop men employed by the Houston Belt and Terminal company, composed of three railroads, have raised wages 6 cents an hour for the locomotive trades and 3½ to 5 cents for car men.

Pine Bluff, Ark., Sept. 29.—A strike ultimatum of St. Louis and Southwestern ("Cotton-Belt") railroad shop men resulted in general wage increases and the first agreement with this company. Higher rates date back to July 1.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 29.—At the request of its federated shop men to pay wages prevailing in its territory, the Wabash railroad announces a 50 cent hourly rate for mechanics and 33 cents for helpers. Working conditions are also bettered.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 29.—The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient railroad has adjusted wage differences with its organized shop men after much negotiation.

"FINK" DEFINES STATUS.

San Francisco, Sept. 29.—A "fink," employed by the United Railroads, assures the public, in a local newspaper, that there is a vast difference between his "profession" and what he terms the ordinary, low-down scab, who is declared a cut-throat in the strikebreaking game, and who works for less wages than is paid unionists.

"The 'finks'" he said, "stand up for their rights, and get all they can get away with. You don't find any 'finks' working for small wages—that is, the old-time gang never did. But the scabs cut prices all the time. No decent 'fink' will associate with them.

"A job with good loot in it was the express drivers' strike in Chicago. There was a cop on every wagon, and we always had to split with them when we stole a package. We busted open every package that looked good."

OBJECT TO POOR LAND.

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Sept. 29.—Rural credits and the back-to-the-land movement furnished one of the biggest debates at the annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Delegates said that settlers are striving to make a living on barren ground, while corporations are holding thousands of fertile acres upon which they pay no taxes. The movement to place returned soldiers on the bush lands also met with opposition on the ground that the government should start these men on productive land. The convention referred the matter to the executive committees of the provincial federations.

WANT U. S. BUILT HOMES.

Washington, Sept. 29.—Scarcity of homes in many industrial localities can only be remedied by government action was the declaration of a conference called by President Gompers this week to discuss the question of housing workers. The meeting was attended by trade unionists, members of congress and others. A committee was appointed to urge President Wilson to favor an appropriation by congress which would provide sufficient money for a commission to build these homes.

FARM LOANS INCREASE.

Washington, Sept. 29.—More than 4,000 farm loan associations are being organized in this country to borrow money under the federal farm loan act. Twelve hundred of these organizations are already chartered and loans are being made to farmers who compose these associations.

TELEPHONE GIRLS LOYAL.

Fort Smith, Ark., Sept. 29.—Two telephone operators employed by the Southwestern Telephone company were discharged because of union affiliation and their associate workers struck. The central trades and labor council has appointed a committee to aid the girls.

RETAIL CLERKS ADVANCE.

Seattle, Sept. 29.—Nearly 75 retail stores in this city have signed a one-year agreement with Retail Clerks' union No. 174. The stores will close at 6 o'clock except Saturday, when the hour will be 7 o'clock, for six months, after which 6 o'clock closing will prevail.

PRESSMEN RAISES WAGES.

Seattle, Sept. 29.—Printing Pressmen's union No. [illegible] [illegible] wages [illegible] a week through negotiations.

WORKERS GET RIGHTS BY GENERAL STRIKE

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 29.—It took a general strike of 10,000 workers to impress upon official nobodies, both civil and military, that organized workers have the right to parade the streets of Springfield in an orderly manner.

The unionists and sympathizers were marching to a meeting called to assist striking street car men when they were stopped by police officials and the militia. An American flag was fired upon and about 40 persons bayoneted by soldiers.

The workers replied to this outrage so quickly an effectively that the deputy sheriffs were dismissed, the soldiers were withdrawn from guard duty and solemn assurance given that the right of free assemblage would hereafter be maintained.

To protect themselves against a repetition of this wrong the unionists, at a large mass meeting, adopted this significant resolution:

"We authorize and empower the strike committee to continue their work, and whenever they find that our constitutional rights are being denied, abrogated or set aside, they are at liberty to issue a call to all organized workers in the city, and also ask those that are not organized to join with us in asserting our rights, as we find this our only weapon of offense and defense, and we will use it whenever required to maintain our rights as liberty loving American citizens.

"In returning to our various vocations, we insist that all who are idle be returned to their former positions, and the strike committee be empowered to see that there is no discrimination.

"We desire to express our deep appreciation of the fairness displayed by our friends, and assure our enemies that they, too, will be remembered. We express the hope that the street car strike will soon be amicably settled, so that no cloud of industrial disturbance will threaten our city, and pledge ourselves to do everything in our power to bring about such a situation, fully appreciating that the burden and expense of strikes, as well as the inconvenience occasioned, bears as heavily on the home of the striker as on any other member of society. If men did not have the courage to strike, wages would long since have sunk to the level of that of the Chinese coolie, as some corporations seem to regard profit as more sacred than the life and happiness of the worker."

MINERS CONFER ON WAGES.

Washington, Sept. 29.—Miners and operators of the central competitive field, representing western Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, are conferring on wage increases. The present contract does not expire until April 1 next.

The miners say that higher wages in other activities, the draft and the stoppage of immigration have created a labor shortage in the mining industry and wages must be made sufficiently attractive to secure the return of miners now employed in factories. Since July 20, 1917, soft coal production has decreased at the rate of 200,000 tons a day for the average of five working days. If the decrease continues, without dropping any lower, there will be a shortage of 142,000,000 tons during the next 12 months, on the basis of a production of 502,000,000 tons last year.

NO LABOR SHORTAGE.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 29.—The central labor union denies that there is a labor shortage in this city, and says that the approaching winter season will cause many who have been working in the harvest and logging industries to drift into industrial centers to seek winter employment. It is stated that wages in this district range as low as $1.50 a day and that "there has been no demand for skilled workers, which has not been met, regardless of the fact that many of the best tradesmen in different lines have been drawn to other points by more attractive wages and better working conditions."

U. S. TO SELL SEED.

Washington, Sept. 29.—Inaugurating the department of agriculture's first undertaking for the sale of seed to farmers, as provided by the food production law, Secretary Houston has authorized the purchase of 25,000 bushels of seed corn in northern and northeastern Texas for sale to farmers in the counties of that state where this year's corn crop failed.

The seed will be bought at market prices and sold at cost plus the expense of distributing.

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.

Phoenix, Ariz., Sept. 29.—Copper operators in the Clifton-Morenci district have notified the citizens' committee of Clifton, through Governor Campbell, that they will not arbitrate with their striking employes.

The workers pledged that they would return to work immediately if the operators would accept arbitration and agree that the award would be effective from the date of resumption of work.

REASON FOR STRIKES.

Phoenix, Ariz., Sept. 29.—"The numerous strikes which are given publicity in the daily press," says the Arizona Labor Journal, "are the direct result of the high cost of living and not a concerted effort on the part of labor to take advantage of the government during the war, as charged by the enemies of unionism."

MINERS WANT WORK.

Indianapolis, Sept. 29. — The Mine Workers' union of West Terre Haute has notified the public service commission that it is in hearty accord with the movement for greater coal production but its members want a chance to work more than three days a week.

MACHINISTS RAISE WAGES.

Baltimore, Sept. 29.—Organized machinists employed by the Crown Cork and Seal company have raised wages 4 cents an hour, making the minimum rate 35 cents for eight hours and the union shop. Over 200 workers are benefited.

BENEFIT FUND SOUND.

Olympia, Wash., Sept. 29.—Since the state industrial commission started its compensation benefits a total of $8,261,[illegible] has been collected in premiums and $[illegible] has been paid out in claims, while $[illegible] is held in reserve.

EXCLUDE FEMALE MINORS.

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 29.—The state industrial welfare commission has ordered that female minors shall not be employed as [illegible].

WAGE AVERAGE LOW; NON-UNIONISM HIGH

Lawrence, Kan., Sept. 29.—The absence of collective bargaining is a local reason why two-thirds of 419 workingmen in this city receive less than $12 a week.

The above summarizes a social survey of Lawrence conducted by the community and directed by F. W. Blackman, professor of sociology.

"None of these figures," it is reported, "include the reduction of income that comes from unemployment, sickness or other causes. In the week studied one-sixth of the men lost one or more days' work in the week. The total loss amounted to 166 days for 432 men studied. This means an average loss of one-third day a week for each man, or an average weekly 6 1-2 per cent reduction in income. This means that all men receiving, for example, $12 a week, will average, on this basis for the year, only $11.25 per week in wages.

"If this computation corresponds with the facts, we find that over two-thirds of the Lawrence wage earners receive less than $600 per year. Few persons would contend that $600 is sufficient to provide a comfortable livelihood in Lawrence."

These figures agree, in the main, with reports to the state department of labor.

The investigators are outspoken in their indorsement of trade unions and the benefits of collective bargaining.

"Where shall we place the responsibility for low wages and the low standard of living in Lawrence? It is easy to give a one-sided answer and to place the blame wholly upon the employed or the employer. Further consideration shows that many factors enter into the problem, some that are not local at all, but national.

"One factor that is local is the practical absence of collective bargaining in Lawrence."

BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Chicago, Sept. 29.—The Nickel Plate railroad has raised wages 4½ cents an hour for boiler makers at its Stony Island shop. The rate is now 52 cents an hour. Helpers are advanced 3 cents an hour, making their rate 34 cents.

Philadelphia, Sept. 29.—Boiler Makers' union No. 341 is successfully enforcing its new wage scale, which calls for union recognition, a 50 cent minimum for journeymen and 37½ cents for helpers.

Long Beach, Cal., Sept. 29.—Members of Boiler Makers' union No. 285 say that all of their recently-elected officers have "been called on the carpet," and that some of them have been offered wages equal to any paid on the coast if they would keep their union cards in their pockets and their mouths shut. These officials, however, are the same trade unionists as they were before, and the employers are helpless because there are no boiler makers at the factory gates clamoring for work.

RAILWAY CLERKS WIN.

Norfolk, Va., Sept. 29.—The clerks' strike against the Seaboard Air Line railroad has ended with the railroad recognizing the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. A schedule of hours, wages and working conditions will be prepared by the two parties, assisted by representatives of the federal department of labor. Differences first arose in Richmond, several weeks ago, and the strike spread from that city down the east coast to Jacksonville, Fla. With traffic tied up and threats to extend the strike through other sections of the south the railroad awakened to the fact that these overworked and underpaid employes have abandoned old policies and are now attempting to help themselves.

RESULTS FOLLOW UNITY.

Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 29.—City fire fighters have been entitled to a 12 per cent wage increase since last April, because the state legislature said so. But they were not paid this advance because the city commissioners said there was no money in the treasury. The firemen then organized and the commissioners changed front. Provision was made to start the increases on October 1 and both parties agree that one fireman will file a friendly suit in the courts to recover back pay.

The puzzle to this situation is: If the firemen did not organize, what would they get?

EQUAL SUFFRAGE GAINS.

Washington, Sept. 29.—Equal suffrage made a distinct advance when the house, by a vote of 181 to 107, created a special committee to consider this question, which is now taken out of the hands of the judiciary committee, where it has lain for years.

This action follows a favorable report to the senate of the submission of the plan to amend the federal constitution by establishing equal suffrage.

STRIKEBREAKERS WEARY.

San Francisco, Sept. 29.—Strikebreakers employed by the United Railroads have appealed to State Labor Commissioner McLaughlin to assist them in securing their wages and arrange transportation to their homes in the east. The strikebreakers complain of ill treatment, failure to collect wages and the company's refusal to allow them to resign their positions.

PROFITEERING IN FLAGS.

Washington, Sept. 29.—The federal trade commission charges 20 flag manufacturers with making exorbitant profits out of American patriotism by concerted illegal action to raise flag prices. It is stated that in some cases 300 per cent profit was made. Hearings on the charges will be held November 5.

LETTER CARRIERS IN LINE.

Washington, Sept. 29.—Following favorable action by the recent Dallas convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers, the American Federation of Labor has issued a charter to this organization, which is now enrolled in the trade union family.

WANT HIGHER WAGES.

Pittsburg, Pa., Sept. 29.—Organized pattern makers in this city and vicinity threaten to strike October 1 if their wages are not increased to 70 and 75 cents an hour, according to the grade of work. Double time for overtime is also asked.

IRON WORKERS UNITE.

Chicago, Sept. 29.—Employes in the rolling mill department of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad have been organized by the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

FEDERAL EMPLOYES PADDLE OWN CANOE

Washington, Sept. 29.—After organizing and assisting unions of federal employes until they were sufficiently numerous enough to "stand on their own feet," the American Federation of Labor, at a convention of these workers, held in A. F. of L. building, launched the National Federation of Federal Employes. Jurisdiction includes all persons engaged in the civil branch of the government and its insular possessions, except the postal service and those eligible to membership in some other national or international union affiliated with the A. F. of L.

Delegates, representing 75 federal unions located in various sections of the country, were present. The opening address was delivered by President Gompers, followed by A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, Vice President O'Connell and Thos. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

William A. Holman, premier of New South Wales, was introduced by President Gompers. The visitor stated that he employs more men than any other individual in his country and he favors strong organizations of workers.

The convention elected as its first president H. M. McLarin, president of the local Federal Employes' union, and E. J. Newmyer, also of this city, secretary-treasurer. These officials, with seven vice presidents, including Miss Florence Etheridge of this city, constitute the executive council. The two first named officers are to devote all their time to the organization.

Chicago was chosen as the next convention city. Equal pay for equal work, regardless of sex, was favored.

Article 2 of the constitution provides that "the objects of this federation shall be to advance the social and economic welfare and education of the employes of the United States and to aid in the perfection of systems that will make for greater efficiency in the various services of the United States.

"The methods for obtaining these objects shall be by petition to congress, by creating and fostering public sentiment favorable to proposed reforms, by co-operation with government officials and employes, by legislation, and other lawful means; provided, that under no circumstances shall this federation engage in or support strikes against the United States government."

SHATTER "PIPE DREAM."

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 29.—The editorial "pipe dream" of fabulous sums earned by coal miners was shattered by Joseph J. Loughran, a Hazelton, Pa., business man, who attended the war conference of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, held in this city.

"There is no truth in the reports that the miners in the hard-coal districts are loafing on their jobs, making fabulous wages and riding around in automobiles," he said. "No man works harder for the money he earns than the hard-coal miner, and were it not for the silk mills where the women of his family can augment the income of the household, the miners would have a very hard time of it with the present cost of living so high.

"The bosses and the superintendents are the ones who get the big wages and who do the automobile joy riding, but the miner, never."

STRIKES IN KANSAS CITY.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 29.—Low wages has caused an epidemic of strikes among unorganized workers in this city, and they are flocking to the trade union movement so fast that the street car men adjourned their last meeting in the labor temple to make room for an organization meeting.

Over 1,000 freight house employes are on strike against 13 railroads, and 400 organized teamsters struck in sympathy. The Bakers' union is assisting strikers at several large plants. Boxmakers to the number of about 1,500 are still on strike.

PLAN FOR CHEAP SHOES.

Washington, Sept. 29.—As a "war efficiency" measure merchants throughout the country are urging customers to carry home their purchases, but the customers are asking if it will mean cheaper commodities. This question remains unanswered and now J. W. Sullivan, assistant to Samuel Gompers, chairman of the advisory commission, council of national defense, suggests that merchants sell shoes for children 12 years of age and under at the wholesale price.

TO VOTE ON WAGE SCALE.

East Liverpool, Ohio, Sept. 29.—A wage committee of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters has submitted to the membership the result of a conference with the United States Potters' association. The potters asked for a 25 per cent wage increase and the workers' representatives refused to accept the employers' proposition.

COPPER PRICE FIXED.

Washington, Sept. 29.—The government has fixed the price of copper at 23½ cents a pound. It is agreed there shall be no wage reductions. Early in the war, when copper sold at about 36 cents, the government contracted for 45,000,000 pounds at 16 2-3 cents, but future contracts will be at the new rate.

SHOPS CLOSE EARLIER.

San Francisco, Sept. 29.—For the first time in the history of this city, butcher shops are closing on Saturday nights at 7 o'clock instead of 9 p. m. The Butchers' union, with a membership of over 400, has made this possible through a one-year agreement which also raises wages.

LABORERS RAISE WAGES.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 29.—The Building Laborers and Hod Carriers' union has secured the eight-hour day and $3.50 a day for laborers and $4.50 for hod carriers. Two years ago these workers were paid $2.50 for nine hours.

METAL STRIKE ADJUSTED.

San Francisco, Sept. 29.—Representatives of the Metal Trades association and the iron workers' council have signed an agreement as to wages and conditions under which work will be resumed pending a final settlement.

GAINS BY FOUNDRYMEN.

Collinsville, Ill., Sept. 29.—[illegible] members of the Foundry Employes' union [illegible] by an agreement between these workers and [illegible], who have raised wages [illegible].

LIVING COSTS SOAR; WAGES MUST ADVANCE

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 29.—The state council of defense has made public the report of Prof. M. E. Jaffa of the University of California on the need of readjustment of wages because of the increased cost of living.

It is stated that the increase is 33 per cent during the past two years and that the man with a wife and three children to support, who receives $75 a month, will have $2.50 left to pay for clothing, insurance and other extras, after he has paid for necessary food, rent and shoes. Many families, in order to make both ends meet, have largely reduced their food consumption and such reduction is at the expense of proper growth and development of children and impaired efficiency and endurance of adults, says Prof. Jaffa.

Taking rent, which he figures at $15 a month, and light and fuel at $1.50 and $2 respectively, as being items which have not increased in price during the past two years, Prof. Jaffa shows that where the average wage earner expended $57.75 for necessary living expenses a year ago, the increases in food, clothing and shoes now make it necessary for him to pay out $72.50 each month in order to properly nourish, house and clothe himself and family.

Shoes in each family, that cost $5.25 a month during 1916, now cost $8 monthly, which is inclusive of repair charges, made necessary by the use of poorer materials.

WANT VOLUNTEER WORKERS.

Washington, Sept. 29.—For the purpose of mobilizing workers during the war period, the federal department of labor has organized the "United States public service reserve."

Shop executives, skilled craftsmen, railroad men, lumber men, nurses, clerks, etc., who are in a position to aid the government by working elsewhere, are asked to become members of this public service reserve. Each applicant will furnish, on blanks provided for this purpose, general information regarding ability.

The department of labor gives assurance that claims of labor shortage will be first investigated that all labor in that particular locality may be first utilized, before other workers are assigned. "This," says the department, "will simplify the problem of labor readjustment after the war."

Where workers join the reserve and are notified of opportunities elsewhere, they are asked to consult their employer, if possible.

Membership in the reserve is entirely voluntary, and no penalty is attached to this movement which is intended solely to list those workers in the country who are so situated that they can be moved quickly on work intended for war use.

Employers will be asked to assist, that the distribution of labor may be made as fair as possible.

BOAT TRAGEDY RECALLED.

Everett, Wash., Sept. 29.—The suit of Oscar Carlson for $50,000 damages against the sheriff of this county, the Vashon Island Navigation company, the City Dock company, and others, is now being heard in the superior court of this county.

November 5 last Carlson and a friend went aboard the steamer Verona for a day of pleasure. Armed deputies attempted to stop the boat from landing here because of a lumber strike. Shooting began and seven persons were killed and about 50 wounded. Carlson, as an innocent bystander, was shot several times by the deputies, resulting in his total incapacitation.

Attempts were made to prove that the strikers fired first and one of them was charged with murdering a deputy sheriff. The accused was acquitted on May 5 last.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Sept. 29.—During last June 16,144 immigrants arrived in this country, against 27,396 in 1916 and 28,498 in 1915.

The June report of the federal immigration bureau shows an increase of Russian immigrants, 1,008 arriving during this period. In the same 1916 month, 59 arrived, and in 1915, the total was 330, while before the war, June, 1914, the number was 17,254.

During last June the number of immigrants classed as laborers was 1,090. In June, 1914, the number of these arrivals was 10,500.

WILL TEACH ENGLISH.

Washington, Sept. 29.—In announcing the third "American First" campaign, the federal bureau of education states that approximately 3,000,000 foreign-born whites residing in the United States do not speak English. Only a small number of these have attended evening school. Concerted effort will be made to induce these immigrants to learn English and acquire a knowledge of the government, institutions and ideals of the United States.

UNIONIZE CITY WORKERS.

Boston, Sept. 29.—Plans to unionize all city employes is being arranged by local unionists. A mass meeting will be held on Sunday, November 4, in the largest hall that can be secured, to devise ways and means to interest all municipal workers.

MAIL FOR SOLDIERS.

Washington, Sept. 29.—The adjutant general's office warns those sending letters and packages to American soldiers abroad not to use the letters "A. E. F." for American expeditionary forces, but to write out these words, since the same letters stand for Australian expeditionary forces.

STREET CAR MEN WIN.

Danville, Ill., Sept. 29.—The Street Car Men's union has won its strike against the local traction company. Discharged employes are reinstated, the union is recognized and wage increases will be arbitrated.

CANNERY WORKERS STRIKE.

Fort Smith, Ark., Sept. 29.—Workers employed at the cannery in this city struck to enforce a wage increase of 3 cents a basket for [illegible] apples.

STAGE EMPLOYES GAIN.

Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 29.—Stage employes at Keith's theater have won a 10-days' strike and raised wages $2 a week.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

East St. Louis, Ill., Sept. 29.—After a short strike organized plumbing [illegible] their new wage scale of $[illegible] a day, to take effect immediately.

WAR PROFITEERING BEHIND LABOR UNREST

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 29.—In an address in this city last week before the war conference of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States Secretary of Labor Wilson told business men that war profiteering and not the I. W. W. was behind numerous strikes and general labor unrest in this country.

President Wilson's trade union cabinet official scoffed at the claim, so hysterically repeated in numerous newspapers, that the I. W. W. is making converts among American workers.

"Did it ever occur to you," said the cabinet official, "that the greatest reason for the unrest that exists among the working men of this country is that the story has gone forth that the corporations engaged in the iron and steel industry, for instance, are making a profit of from 200 to 400 per cent a year; that corporations engaged in the shipbuilding industry are making enormous profits; that corporations engaged in mining and lumbering are making enormous profits?"

The speaker expressed these views on welfare schemes and on the theory of collective bargaining:

"So far as the employe is concerned he may appreciate your generosity, admire your charity in the housing conditions and other fine surroundings in which you place him; but perhaps he would rather live in a log cabin, a home of his own, and on hominy of his own production than live in a palace and feel that it came from charity.

"The employe wants the right and privilege of doing something for himself. Now, you employers have the advantage of experience. Your contact with the world gives you a broader view than the employe can possibly have. It is only when he has the opportunity of selecting skilled men to speak for him that he comes anywhere near you in advantage."

CHILDREN IN WAR TIME.

Washington, Sept. 29.—War work for babies, which resulted in lowering the infant death rate in Great Britain, France, Belgium and Germany, is described in a pamphlet issued by the federal children's bureau, department of labor.

The special features of the work have varied in different countries. In England there has been a striking increase in the number of health visitors employed to instruct mothers in the care of their babies and young children. Information regarding Germany is available only for the first 18 months of the war. The outstanding feature of the work in Paris seems to be the increased provision for maternity care, and in Belgium, the establishment of canteens for the feeding of mothers and of young children.

The chief preventive measure for protecting babies, it is stated, is to insure their intelligent care and nursing by healthy mothers in their own homes.

WHY BONUS IS FAVORED.

New York, Sept. 29.—In conducting an inquiry into wages paid office employes, the Merchants' association has discovered that office "help" of all kinds are working for wages received two or three years ago. Many employers advised against wage increases on the ground that the present high cost of living is temporary, and wages could not be decreased without difficulty. Extra cash payments were recommended to meet this situation, although some employers, it is stated, have discovered that the bonus system is unsatisfactory.

ELECTRICIANS STRIKE.

Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 29.—To give the Wm. Hall Electric company sufficient time to arrange future contracts, the Electrical Workers' union presented a wage agreement to take effect May 1, next year. The company refused to accept the agreement and their workers are now on strike.

Boston, Sept. 29.—The Edison company has adjusted differences with Electrical Workers' union No. 104. The union's scale of $4 a day for eight hours is agreed to.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 29.—"What's in a name?" asks E. J. Pelkey, editor of the labor department of the Tacoma Daily News.

"In the San Francisco street car men's strike," writes this unionist, "they are called 'substitute car men,' not old-fashioned 'strikebreakers.' But why not make it a bit more euphoneous and refer to professional strikebreakers as 'handy gentlemen of occasional occupation?'"

WHY MINERS STRUCK.

Kennett, Cal., Sept. 29.—High cost of living and the treatment of miners caused the strike in the Shasta county copper belt, reports Vincent Vecovich, representing the state immigration and housing commission. He justified the miners in their demands and said they agreed to arbitration but wanted the companies to disarm their gunmen first. The companies declined this offer.

WILL NOT BE EXAMINED.

Seattle, Sept. 29.—Electrical Workers' union No. 77 has refused to accept the local telephone company's offer that if wages are to be increased the workers must submit to an examination, which the company says will provide these wage advances. The linemen reply that the examination will provide for the death of the union as collective bargaining will be abolished.

LADIES' TAILORS STRIKE.

New York, Sept. 29.—Ladies' tailors and alteration workers, employed in shops and department stores, are on strike for the union shop, a 48-hour week, and increased wages. These workers are affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

RAILROAD STRIKE ENDS.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 29.—The strike of 800 clerks and shop men against the Central Railroad of New Jersey has been satisfactorily adjusted with the aid of the federal department of labor.

LOW WAGE CAUSES STRIKE.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 29.—Organized teamsters are on strike against the big transfer companies of this city. The wage rate is $2.25 for 11 and 12 hours a day.

BOOKBINDERS ADVANCE.

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 29.—Organized bookbinders have raised wages $2 a week.